AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (cancelled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): An isolated *Listeria* bacterium which is attenuated both for entry into non-phagocytic cells and for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type, wherein the non-phagocytic cells are hepatocytes.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, which comprises at least one mutation in one or more genes selected from the group consisting of *actA*, *lplA*, *plcA*, *plcB*, *mpl* and *hly*, wherein the mutation attenuates the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 23, ~~which comprises a mutation in~~ wherein the one or more genes is *actA*.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, wherein nucleic acid of the bacterium has been modified by reaction with a nucleic acid targeting compound so that proliferation of the bacterium is attenuated, thereby attenuating the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 25, wherein the nucleic acid targeting compound is ~~nucleic acid of the bacterium has been modified by contact with~~ a psoralen activated by UVA irradiation.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, ~~wherein the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium~~ which is defective with respect to one or more internalins relative to

wild type, such that the bacterium is attenuated for entry into the non-phagocytic cells relative to wild type.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 27, ~~which is defective with respect to~~ wherein the one or more internalins comprise internalin B.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 28, which comprises at least one mutation in the *inlB* gene that attenuates the bacterium for entry into the non-phagocytic cells relative to wild type.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 28, which is defective with respect to ActA relative to wild type, such that the bacterium is attenuated for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 30, ~~wherein the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium~~ which comprises at least one mutation in both *actA* and *inlB*, wherein the mutation in *actA* attenuates the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type and the mutation in *inlB* attenuates the bacterium for entry into the non-phagocytic cells relative to wild type.

Claim 32 (original): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, which belongs to the species *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Claim 33 (original): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, which comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-Listerial antigen.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 33, wherein the non-Listerial antigen is a tumor-associated antigen or derived from a ~~tumor-associated~~ tumor-associated antigen.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 34, wherein the antigen is a ~~tumor-associated~~ tumor-associated antigen or derived from a ~~tumor-associated~~ tumor-associated antigen selected from the group consisting of mesothelin, sp17, PAGE-4, gp-100, PSMA, K-ras, TARP, proteinase 3, WT-1, NY-ESO-1, CEA, Her-2, and SPAS-1.

Claim 36 (original): The attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 33, wherein the non-Listerial antigen is an infectious disease antigen or is derived from an infectious disease antigen.

Claim 37 (original): An immunogenic composition comprising the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A ~~vaccine~~ composition comprising (a) the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, and (b) ~~a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or~~ an adjuvant.

Claim 39 (original): A method of inducing an immune response in a host to an antigen comprising administering to the host an effective amount of a composition comprising the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, wherein the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium comprises a nucleic acid encoding the antigen.

Claim 40 (currently amended): A method of ~~preventing or~~ treating a disease in a host, comprising administering to the host an effective amount of a composition comprising the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22.

Claim 41 (currently amended): An isolated professional antigen-presenting cell comprising the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22.

Claims 42-60 (cancelled)

Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the attenuation for cell-to-cell spread is a result of the bacterium being defective with respect to one or more protein selected from the group consisting of ActA, lipoate protein ligase, PI-PLC, PC-PLC, zinc-dependent metalloprotease, and LLO, relative to wild type, and wherein the attenuation for entry into the non-phagocytic cells is the result of the bacterium being defective with respect to internalin B.

Claim 62 (new): The method of claim 61, wherein the bacterium comprises at least one mutation in *inlB* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread, and comprises at least one mutation in *actA* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread.

Claim 63 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the bacterium belongs to the species *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Claim 64 (new): The method of 63, wherein the bacterium comprises at least one mutation in *inlB* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread, and comprises at least one mutation in *actA* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread.

Claim 65 (new): The method of claim 64, wherein the bacterium comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-Listerial antigen.

Claim 66 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the antigen is a non-Listerial antigen.

Claim 67 (new): The method of claim 66, wherein the non-Listerial antigen is a tumor-associated antigen or derived from a tumor-associated antigen.

Claim 68 (new): The method of claim 66, wherein the non-Listerial antigen is an infectious disease antigen or is derived from an infectious disease antigen.

Claim 69 (new): The method of claim 39, wherein the attenuation for cell-to-cell spread is a result of the bacterium being defective with respect to one or more protein selected from the group consisting of ActA, lipoate protein ligase, PI-PLC, PC-PLC, zinc-dependent metalloprotease, and LLO, relative to wild type, and wherein the attenuation for entry into the non-phagocytic cells is the result of the bacterium being defective with respect to internalin B.

Claim 70 (new): The method of claim 69, wherein the bacterium comprises at least one mutation in *inlB* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread, and comprises at least one mutation in *actA* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread.

Claim 71 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the bacterium belongs to the species *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Claim 72 (new): The method of 71, wherein the bacterium comprises at least one mutation in *inlB* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread, and comprises at least one mutation in *actA* that results in the attenuation of the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread.

Claim 73 (new): The method of claim 72, wherein the bacterium comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-Listerial antigen.

Claim 74 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the bacterium comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-Listerial antigen.

Claim 75 (new): The method of claim 74, wherein the non-Listerial antigen is a tumor-associated antigen or derived from a tumor-associated antigen.

Claim 76 (new): The method of claim 40, wherein the disease is cancer.

Claim 77 (new): A method of providing protection against a disease in a host, comprising administering to the host an effective amount of a composition comprising the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22.

Claim 78 (new): The method of claim 77, wherein the bacterium comprises at least one mutation in the *inlB* gene that attenuates the bacterium for entry into the non-phagocytic cells relative to wild type, and wherein the bacterium comprises at least one mutation in the *actA* gene that attenuates the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type.

Claim 79 (new): The method of claim 77, wherein the bacterium belongs to the species *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Claim 80 (new): The method of claim 77, wherein the bacterium comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-Listerial antigen.

Claim 81 (new): The method of claim 77, wherein the disease is an infectious disease.

Claim 82 (new): The method of claim 77, wherein the disease is cancer.

Claim 83 (new): A pharmaceutical composition comprising (a) the attenuated *Listeria* bacterium of claim 22, and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 84 (new): The bacterium of claim 22, wherein the attenuation for cell-to-cell spread is a result of the bacterium being defective with respect to one or more protein selected from the group consisting of ActA, lipoate protein ligase, PI-PLC, PC-PLC, zinc-dependent metalloprotease, and LLO, relative to wild type.

Claim 85 (new): The bacterium of claim 84, wherein the one or more protein comprises Act A.

Claim 86 (new): The bacterium of claim 84, wherein the attenuation for entry into the non-phagocytic cells is a result of the bacterium being defective with respect to internalin B.

Claim 87 (new): The bacterium of 32, which comprises at least one mutation in both *actA* and *inlB*, wherein the mutation in *actA* attenuates the bacterium for cell-to-cell spread relative to wild type and the mutation in *inlB* attenuates the bacterium for entry into the non-phagocytic cells relative to wild type.

Claim 88 (new): The bacterium of 87, which comprises a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-Listerial antigen.